

*What is claimed is:*

1. A method of market basket bidding for surplus merchandise comprising:  
soliciting bids for a plurality of lots, each lot having a comparison value;  
receiving a plurality of bids on combinations of the lots from a plurality of buyers, at  
least one lot receiving bids from more than one buyer being an overlap portion; and  
awarding the overlap portion to a winning buyer, the winning buyer having submitted a  
bid on a combination that includes the overlap portion,  
wherein the bid submitted by the winning buyer has a parameter having a higher  
parameter value than other parameters calculated from bids from other buyers, the parameter  
being a percentage over a total comparison value for the combination.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the soliciting comprises:  
identifying at least one of goods and services to be purchased.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the soliciting comprises:  
providing a list price and a minimum purchase price for each lot to the buyer.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving comprises:  
selecting, by the buyer, the combination of lots desired; and  
offering a price for the combination of lots.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the awarding comprises:  
dividing the bid on the combination by the total comparison value;  
determining effective multipliers; and  
comparing the effective multipliers of buyers competing for the overlap portions.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the awarding comprises:  
allotting the lots in the combination not included in the overlap portion to the buyer  
bidding on the lots.
7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:  
requiring the buyers to purchase all of the lots awarded.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
notifying buyers bidding on the overlap portion;  
allowing the buyers to raise the bid on at least one of the overlap portion, at least one lot  
in the overlap portion, and the combination.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the awarding comprises:

adjusting the parameter for combinations having at least one of a larger volume of lots, a larger dollar volume, and specified lots.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
offering a discount on one lot if the buyer bids on another lot.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the soliciting comprises:  
multiplying the comparison value by a factor to calculate a modified cost; and  
providing the modified cost to the buyers.
12. A method of market basket bidding for surplus merchandise comprising:  
soliciting bids for a plurality of lots, each lot having a comparison value and a minimum purchase price;  
receiving a plurality of bids on combinations of the lots from a plurality of buyers, at least one lot receiving bids from more than one buyer being for overlap portion;  
notifying the buyers bidding on the overlap portion;  
allowing the buyers to raise bids on at least one of the overlap portion, at least one lot in the overlap portion, and the combination;  
awarding the overlap portion to a winning buyer, the winning buyer having submitted a bid on a combination that includes the overlap portion, wherein the bid submitted by the winning buyer has a parameter having a higher parameter value than other parameters calculated from bids from other buyers, the parameter being a percentage over a total comparison value for the combination;  
allotting the lots in the combinations not included in the overlap portion to the buyers bidding on the lots; and  
requiring the buyers to purchase all of the lots allotted and awarded.
13. A system for market basket bidding for surplus merchandise comprising:  
a database for receiving and storing a plurality of bids for combinations of lots selected by a plurality of buyers and comparison values for the lots, at least one lot receiving bids from more than one buyer being an overlap portion; and  
software for awarding the overlap portion to a winning buyer having submitted a bid on a combination that includes the overlap portion, the bid submitted by the winning buyer having a parameter with a higher parameter value than other parameters calculated from bids from other buyers, the parameter being a percentage over a total comparison value for the combination.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the parameter comprises an adjustment for at least one of a larger volume of lots, a larger dollar volume, and specified lots.
15. The system of claim 13 wherein the lots comprise at least one of goods and services.
16. The system of claim 13 wherein the software divides each bid by the total comparison value, determines effective multipliers, and compares the effective multipliers of the buyers competing for the overlap portions.
17. The system of claim 13 wherein the database comprises a minimum purchase price for each lot.
18. The system of claim 13 wherein the software allots the lots in the combination not included in the overlap portion to the buyer bidding on the lots.
19. The system of claim 18 wherein the buyer purchases the lots awarded and allotted.
20. The system of claim 13 wherein the comparison value comprises at least one of a list price, a purchase price, and a depreciated cost.
21. The system of claim 13 wherein the comparison value comprises a cost multiplied by a factor.
22. A machine readable medium for market basket bidding for surplus merchandise comprising:
  - a first machine readable code that receives a plurality of bids for combinations of lots selected by a plurality of buyers, at least one lot receiving bids from more than one buyer being an overlap portion;
  - a second machine readable code that stores comparison values and minimum purchase prices for the lots; and
  - a third machine readable code that awards the overlap portion to a winning buyer, having submitted a bid on a combination that includes the overlap portion, the bid submitted by the winning buyer having a parameter with a higher parameter value than other parameters calculated from bids from other buyers, the parameter being a percentage over a total comparison value for the combination.
23. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein the parameter comprises an adjustment for at least one of a larger volume of lots, a larger dollar volume, and specified lots.

24. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein the third machine readable code divides each bid by the total list price, determines effective multipliers, and compares the effective multipliers of the buyers competing for the overlap portions.

25. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein the third machine readable code allots the lots in the combination not included in the overlap portion to the buyer bidding on the lots.

26. The machine readable medium of claim 25 wherein the buyer purchases the lots awarded and allotted.

27. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein the comparison value comprises at least one of a list price, a purchase price, and a depreciated cost.

28. The machine readable medium of claim 22 the comparison value comprises a cost multiplied by a factor.

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